

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: JULY 19 SYRIAN MEDIA EMPHASIZE LEBANESE ACCEPTANCE
OF SYRIAN INTERVENTION, CALM IN ZAHLE AND RAYAQ, AND FATAH/
JUMBLATT TERRORISM IN WEST BEIRUT

1. JULY 19 SYRIAN MEDIA STRESSED CALM PREVAILING IN AREAS
UNDER SYRIAN CONTROL IN CONTRAST TO PROBLEMS ENDURED BY
LEBANESE LIVING IN LEFTIST-DOMINATED REGIONS. PRESS
HEADLINED: -AL-BAATH MEETS WITH COMMANDERS AND OFFICERS
OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (VANGUARDS) -- 'SYRIA PREVENTED
PARTITION. WE CONSECRATE LEBANON'S ARABISM, AND WE
BELIEVE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMY THAT WOULD PARTICIPATE
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IN BEARING BURDEN OF BATTLE.' WASHINGTON TALKS ABOUT

CONTINUATION OF LEBANESE CRISIS. KHOULI SAYS -- 'NO SOLUTION FOR LEBANESE IMPASSE EXCEPT BY STRESSING LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND BY PROTECTING PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE.' "

2. AL-BAATH CORRESPONDENT MET WITH INHABITANTS OF ZAHLE AND RAYAQ AND REPORTED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE AND SECURITY. NEAR RAYAQ, CORRESPONDENT MET WITH OFFICERS BELONGING TO VANGUARDS OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY, FORCE DESCRIBED BY PRESS AS REPRESENTING "HEALTHY PHENOMENON EMANATING FROM LEBANESE TENDENCIES ON WHICH GREAT EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN PINNED." OFFICERS DISCUSSED THEIR HOPES FOR LEBANON'S FUTURE AND THEIR ENTHUSIASM TO RESOLVE CONFLICT. COMMANDER OF SYRIAN MILITARY UNIT STATIONED IN RAYAQ TOLD CORRESPONDENT LEBANESE HAVE SHOWN TOTAL UNDERSTANDING OF AIMS OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE, AND CLAIMED THAT SYRIAN FORCES ENTERED BAALBEK WITHOUT FIGHTING BECAUSE CITY'S INHABITANTS SUPPORTED SYRIAN INTERVENTION. AS FOR JEZZIN REGION, AL-BAATH WRITER REPORTED THAT CITIZENS BEING SUBJECTED TO INTIMIDATION "BY FATAH GANGS WHICH HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES AND HAVE BEGUN TO WREAK HAVOC ON AREA'S SECURITY. RESIDENTS OF JEZZIN HAVE APPEALED TO SYRIAN FORCES TO RETURN THERE TO RESTORE ORDER."

3. MEDIA CITED REPORTS FROM BEIRUT INDICATING THAT CLASHES INTENSIFIED YESTERDAY IN BEIRUT AND SUBURBS. "REPORTS CONFIRM THAT SITUATION IN WESTERN SECTOR OF BEIRUT, CONTROLLED BY GANGS OF FATAH AND JUMBLATT, HAS BECOME UNBEARABLE OWING TO TERRORISM PRACTICED BY THESE GANGS AGAINST INHABITANTS. CITIZENS DEPRIVED OF PROVISIONS DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO COLLABORATORS OF FATAH AND JUMBLATT."

4. NASSERITE LEADER KAMAL SHATILA HELD PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY IN DAMASCUS IN WHICH HE DISCLOSED THAT PRES. ASAD REASSURED HIM SYRIA COOPERATING WITH ARAB EFFORTS TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. SHATILA STATED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH LEBANESE LEFTIST CONCEPTION OF POLITICAL RECONCILIATION, AND SUGGESTED PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION OF INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC FORCES AS WELL AS PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN ATTEMPTS TO REACH SOLUTION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. DR. HASAN SABRI AL-KHOULI ARRIVED IN DAMASCUS LAST NIGHT ON WAY TO LEBANON AND DECLARED THAT PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT AL COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS.

6. PRIME MINISTER AYYUBI MET YESTERDAY WITH LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLUD TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF SITUATION IN LEBANON.

NO DETAILS.

7. TISHRIIN COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT VOICE OF LEBANESE PEOPLE DEMANDING RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT BEING HEARD IN AREAS WHERE THEY LIBERATED FROM TERRORISM -- IN BAALBEK SOFAR AND RASHAYYA. ANOTHER COLUMNIST CITED CONTINUED FATAH PROPAGANDA BARRAGE AGAINST SYRIA, AS WELL AS U.S./U.K. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF EVACUATION, AS EVIDENCE THAT PLOT TO DIVIDE LEBANON, UNDERMINE SYRIA AND SMASH PALESTINIANS STILL PERSISTS. THIRD TISHRIINCOLUMNIST ACCUSED U.S. OF SEEKING TO UTILIZE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR TO COMPEL ARABS TO ACQUIESCE TO AMERICAN-SPONSORED PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS, OR TO HELP ISRAEL GAIN INCREASED BENEFITS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES. HE DESCRIBED CURRENT PHASE OF U.S. POLICY IN ME AS "TRAP PLACED IN WAY OF ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT."

8. COMMENT: MEDIA HAVE AGAIN BEGUN TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON SYRIA-CREATED LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS AFTER LAPSE OF ALMOST ONE MONTH. THIS MAY PRESAGE SYRIAN ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE FOR VANGUARDS NEW SECURITY ROLE IN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT. SUDDEN FLARE-UP OF ACCUSATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST U.S. ROLE IN LEBANON CONTRASTS WITH RELATIVELY STEADY DECLINE IN ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. POLICY IN LEBANON BY SYRIAN MEDIA SINCE APRIL.
MURPHY

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